

17 JUN 1974

Major General Verne L. Bowers
The Adjutant General
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C. 20310

Att: AGAR-S

Dear General Bowers:

We are presently writing, for our internal use only, a classified history of the establishment of the Central Intelligence Agency. It will cover the years 1939 to 1947 and will trace the events leading, first to the establishment of the Office of the Coordinator of Information (COI) in 1941, then to the replacement of COI by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in 1942, and finally to the birth of the Agency in 1947.

Various officials and offices of the War Department, especially, the Secretary of War, the Chief of Staff, and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, played major roles in this institutional development of intelligence. For this reason, the records of the Department of the Army are pertinent to any serious student of Agency origins.

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The writing of this history is being undertaken by a member of my staff, [redacted] a career employee for twenty years. I understand that [redacted] has been in touch with Mr. Cyrus Fraker of your office. [redacted] is cleared to receive all information up to and including Top Secret. It is requested that [redacted] be authorized access to Department of the Army records appropriate to this history.

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Sincerely,

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[redacted]

Hugh T. Cunningham
Director of Training